

The President's Report

Issue 38 September 2012



The State of the University

President James Ramsey praised faculty as “the heart and soul” of UofL at his annual State of the University address Sept. 12. More than 400 people attended the address. Ramsey looked back over the accomplishments and disappointments of the past year and ahead at a future where public research universities could play an even larger role in economic development efforts and improved quality of life for Kentuckians. That future is vastly different from the one UofL faced 15 years ago when the Postsecondary Education Improvement Act mandated that it become a premier nationally recognized research university.

Ramsey has asked Provost Shirley Willihnganz to lead campus discussions this semester on issues facing UofL and higher education. He'll take ideas garnered from those discussions to the Board of Trustees “so that we continue our commitment to our mandate in the years ahead.” The past year was one of much accomplishment — including significant research grants, a record graduation rate and community partnerships to address issues ranging from brain injuries in soldiers to providing education to underserved areas of Louisville.

A Letter from the President

Dear Friends and Family of UofL,

I had some amazing teachers during my climb up the education ladder — from K-12 through college and graduate school. Although I wasn't always the best student, these faculty took an interest in me, mentored me and taught me the value of a good education. I believe our faculty are not only the backbone of our education system, but our economy as well. Without our faculty, there would not be the education needed for the jobs of the 21st century. That's why our State of the University week was “A Celebration of Faculty.” We need to do more to recognize and applaud the efforts of our remarkable faculty at the University of Louisville, not only for what they're doing in the classroom, but for their work in the research labs and the impact they have on the lives of our students outside the classroom. The extraordinary progress at UofL in the past ten years is due to the hard work and dedication of our faculty who have bought into the concept that UofL can be a premier metropolitan research university competing for the very best students. So, to our faculty members I say “thank you” and I hope all who read this will do the same.



2012 President's Distinguished Faculty Award recipients

President James Ramsey and Provost Shirley Willihnganz honored faculty at the annual Celebration of Faculty Excellence. The 2012 recipients of the President's Distinguished Faculty Awards are:

Outstanding Scholarship, Research & Creative Activity

- Ramesh Gupta, School of Medicine, DFA in Basic and Applied Sciences
- Laura Rothstein, Brandeis School of Law, DFA in Social Sciences
- Aaron Jaffe, College of Arts & Sciences, DFA in the Humanities
- Dallas Tidwell, School of Music, DFA in Creative and Performing Arts
- Hank Savitch, College of Arts & Sciences, DFA for Career Achievement

Service

- Enid Trucios-Haynes, Brandeis School of Law, DFA for Service to UofL
- Theresa Mayfield, School of Dentistry, DFA for Service to the Community, Commonwealth and Region
- Mary Ann Stenger, College of Arts & Sciences, DFA for Career of Service
- Goetz Kloecker, School of Medicine, DFA for Service to the Profession

Teaching

- Karen Kopelson, College of Arts & Sciences, DFA Teaching Professor
- Lars Smith, Brandeis School of Law, DFA Teaching Professor
- Kathleen Karr, School of Music, DFA Part-time Teaching Professor



Provost Shirley Willihnganz unveils her portrait in the Hall of Provosts in Grawemeyer Hall.

Hall of Provosts opens with Willihnganz portrait unveiling

Dozens of faculty, staff and friends celebrated the accomplishments of Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Shirley Willihnganz as she and President James Ramsey announced the opening of the Hall of Provosts in Grawemeyer Hall.

Upon her retirement, Willihnganz's portrait will hang inside the Grawemeyer rotunda, along with those of UofL's previous provosts.

Willihnganz thanked her staff and praised the entire faculty for academic improvements at UofL since her 2002 appointment. She added that the Hall of Provosts actually is a tribute to the many faculty who have contributed to the university's growth as an academic institution.

"We can never forget the central thing a university does is to educate people," she said. "The provost gets to be the face of the important role that faculty play."

Willihnganz is UofL's fourth provost. Portraits of her predecessors will be unveiled at a later date.

CHARTING OUR COURSE The Campaign for Kentucky's Premier Metropolitan Research University

Siemens gift puts engineering students on the fast track

University of Louisville engineering students now have access to and can benefit from the same technology that many global industries use to develop their products, thanks to an in-kind grant from Siemens PLM Software.

The company gave UofL's J.B. Speed School of Engineering a suite of product lifecycle management (PLM) software that aids in design, lifecycle management and manufacturing and will allow students to see how design, simulation, tooling, manufacturing and disposal are connected and interdependent. The software has a commercial value of \$427 million.

"This is a generous gift from Siemens PLM Software," said President Ramsey, noting that it will give UofL students real-world experience while they still are in college.

Students are looking forward to using the software and have some practical applications in mind, including the Baja racing team's vehicle and small rockets students develop for competitions. Siemens PLM Software provides software to more than 1 million students annually at every academic level.



UofL President James Ramsey shakes hands with Scott Hensein from Siemens Product Lifecycle Management Software Inc. as Speed School of Engineering Dean Neville Pinto looks on during a Sept. 4 announcement of the company's in-kind software grant to benefit engineering students. The grant has a commercial value of \$427 million.



President James Ramsey gives CIA Director David Petraeus a token of appreciation.

Definition of a leader: David Petraeus

CIA Director David Petraeus spoke to more than 500 people on Belknap Campus Sept. 10 about the tenets of effective leadership. Petraeus was a guest of the McConnell Center and spoke to an invited audience, including 40 current McConnell Scholars, ROTC cadets and high school students.

Petraeus based his remarks on his experience in leadership, starting with his entry into West Point in 1970, and including command of a 101st Airborne Division, of all coalition forces in Iraq and oversight of an international security force in Afghanistan. He also, among other things, supervised stabilization forces in Bosnia and headed operations of a United Nations force in Haiti.

"My style (of leadership) depends on the context — in particular on the styles of the individuals and the organizations I'm trying to lead," he said.

Petraeus tailored his talk to students in attendance and used his experience with the 2007 surge in Iraq to give them a basic recipe for the cycle of strategic leadership — leadership at the helm of large organizations. Among his points, he encouraged the audience to determine a big idea — and get it right; communicate that big idea well; implement the idea and empower people; and then capture lessons from the big idea and refine it and start again.

He also advised the "future leaders" in the audience to lead by example, make informed decisions and listen and learn from those they lead. Most important, he advised students to build a team and get their hands dirty. True leaders develop through education and practice.

Sen. Mitch McConnell welcomed Petraeus' visit. "In my career in public service," said McConnell, "I've met senators, diplomats and presidents. I'm hard pressed to think of anyone who has impressed me more by his integrity, his lifelong dedication to service and his true understanding of leadership."



The University of Louisville is an equal opportunity institution.
The delivery of this publication is carbon neutral. It is printed on 100% post-consumer waste recycled paper.
It was produced by the University of Louisville and printed using nonstate funds.
323133 - 09/12

